

ABSTRACT

A method and system of background scanning of an evaluated system by a mobile station without missing paging frames on a registered system. The registered system is defined as the system in which the mobile station has registered and will receive pages. The evaluated system is the system from which the mobile station must retrieve parameters (the possibly higher priority system). The various disclosed embodiments use the periodicity of the paging information to set a guard timer that will force the system back to the registered system before the paging information in the next time slot is missed. After receiving the paging information, the mobile station can continue its search and evaluation of base systems. In other words, the guard timer breaks the background scan into smaller segments that are performed between retrievals of paging information.